

New House Leaders Who Will Have Charge of Legislation

Pilots of Future Measures Affecting Farmers, Laborers, Pensioners and Other Vast Classes of Citizens

BY JOHN ELPRETH WATKINS.
Washington, D. C., April 29.—Every taxpayer will be interested to learn the calibre of the new Democratic leaders, who, on the House side of Congress, will now proceed to engineer the expenditure of the public moneys and the making of the new Federal laws. The new chairmen of the Committees on Ways and Means, on Rules and on Appropriations have been so thoroughly written up—as well as down and cross-wise—since their appointments were anticipated, that by now newspaper readers know their careers pretty nearly by heart, but the later appointees, under the new regime, although many of them will be closer to the people in their various influences, have as yet received but meagre attention from journalists who have biographicalized the latest arrivals within the political hall of fame.

New Champion of the Farmers.
Our farmers want to know what manner of man is the new chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, the man who will have charge upon the floor of the debates on the bills appropriating money for their benefit. John Lamb, of Virginia, who has succeeded to this responsibility, will be seventy-one next June and is a Confederate veteran and a Southern gentleman of the old school. Although born on a farm in Sussex county, down near the North Carolina line, he was reared farther north, in Charles City county, on the James River, where his father kept a private school. Here John Lamb received his education, directly under the paternal eye, and soon after Sumter was fired upon, fifty years ago, he clamped on his spurs, took his good nag from the stable and rode off to join the Confederate cavalry, fighting first as a private, but during the last three years of the war as a captain. Although wounded on several battlefields, he fought through the struggle between the States until its end. Then he returned to Charles City county, settled down as a farmer and country gentleman and shortly afterward took unto himself a wife.

That he was one of the most popular men in his region is proved by the fact that during the next twenty years he had pretty nearly the pick of the county offices, serving successively as sheriff, treasurer and surveyor. Thirty-three years ago he moved still farther north and into Henrico county, which contained the city of Richmond. He is now serving his sixteenth year in the House of Representatives, wherein he was ranking Democratic member of the Committee on Agriculture before ascending to the chairmanship.

Will Look Out for Pensioners.
Our thousands of Civil War pensioners are eager to learn something about the new pilot who will steer through the legislative channels of the Democratic House the bills affecting their stipends from Uncle Sam. The Democrat selected for this responsibility is Isaac R. Sherwood, of Toledo, Ohio, who succeeds Cyrus Sulloway, the Republican giant from New Hampshire, as chairman of the House Committee on Invalid Pensions.

The new chairman was a Republican until the centennial year, 1876, when he changed his faith and now he labels himself a "reform Democrat." He is even an older man than Lamb, being now in his seventy-sixth year. Although he was born in New York State, his parents took him when a child to Ohio, where he went through Antioch College and later through the Ohio



WILLIAM B. WILSON.

Law School at Cleveland, where he took his LL. B. two years before the opening of the Civil War. In April, '61, when Lincoln called for volunteers, he at once enlisted as a private of infantry and was commissioned adjutant in '62, major in '63, and lieutenant-colonel in '64, while he was brevetted brigadier-general in '65, "for gallant and meritorious services" at the battles of Resaca, Franklin and Nashville. The same year that he laid down the sword he took up that mightier weapon, the pen, and became editor of the Toledo Commercial as well as of the Cleveland Leader, and four years later he served as Republican Secretary of State of Ohio. After serving four years in this office he came to Congress as a Republican in '72, to serve one term, at the end of which he went home to edit for the next nine years the Toledo Journal, and it was while occupying the sanctum of that paper that he left the Republican party, becoming Democratic probate judge of Toledo, an office which he held for six years. During the ten years preceding McKinley's election to the presidency, General Sherwood edited the News-Democrat in Canton, the Ohio Napoleon's home city. And thirty-four years after first entering that body as a Republican the general returned to the House of Representatives as a Democrat, in 1907.

His Wife an Author.
The new chairman's wife is well known to many Civil War veterans as Kate Brownlee Sherwood, under which name she has written many patriotic poems and songs, as well as several books. And, besides contributing numerous articles to the magazines and newspapers, she has published translations from the French and German. She married General Sherwood two years



WILLIAM SULZER.



JOHN L. BURNETT.

before the war, and after following his destinies throughout that struggle was one of the national organizers of the Woman's Relief Corps, a service for which she is well beloved by the Union veterans throughout the Northland.

And while a Union veteran will thus have charge of the House debates on the Civil War pension bills, a Confederate veteran, William Richardson of Alabama, will be the chief engineer of all legislation affecting pensions growing out of our older wars, as well as our little brush with Spain and routine service in our standing army and navy. Thus, there are two pension committees of the House, Chairman Sherwood's being designated as "invalid pensions" and Chairman Richardson's as "pensions" pure and simple.

When a boy of only sixteen Richardson left his home in Athens, Ala., to join the Confederate army. Twice he was wounded without giving up, but finally at Chickamauga he received a wound which totally disabled him from further fighting.

So, in April of the closing year of the war, he received his parole, but within a few months he became a member of the Alabama Legislature, to which he was twice re-elected. And while serving as a legislator he made good use of his time and studied law, being admitted to the bar the year that his last term expired. The next few years later, he became county judge, holding this office for twelve years. When General "Joe" Wheeler, resigned his seat in Congress, Mr. Richardson was elected as his successor, and he has been re-elected ever since.

Union Man Is Labor Chairman.
Members of our labor unions will be interested to learn that William B. Wilson, of Pennsylvania, the new chairman of the House Committee on Labor, is a man who has himself been both a sweating laborer and a labor union official.

Brought by his poor parents from Scotland at the age of eight, Wilson was soon set to work in the Pennsylvania mines, shoveling onto cars the coal which his father dug. At eleven he was a "half-member" of the Mine Workers' Union. As in the case of James A. O'Gorman, the new Senator from New York, and of Senator Gore, the fiery orator from Oklahoma, the debating society was Wilson's initial impulse that sent him on his congressional career. He tells me that when still a mine boy of fourteen he organized at Arnot, Tioga county, Pa., a debating society, which regularly met in the shop of a friendly cobbler and here, in a "question box," he and his youthful colleagues dropped queries concerning current topics upon which they desired further enlightenment.

He slips were drawn out, one by one, and thrashed out by the young men, whose appetites for solid reading thus became more and more whetted as the days passed. At eleven

When the cobbler's shop was torn down these youths with the weight of the country's destiny upon their shoulders looked vainly about for another sheltered forum, and were reduced to the necessity of meeting on the village green, where five dusky hands came together—a place still called, in that honor, "Congress Corners." When twenty-one the Scotch miner married, but soon afterward was blacklisted by the operators for "pernicious activity" in the union. So he left his young bride behind for a time and went West—making his way by digging ditches, doing farm work, laboring in a saw-mill and, as pikeman in a lumber camp, splashing often neck-deep into the water. Finally, however, he reached a bridge, gained the respect of the union leaders, helped organize the United Mine Workers of America, returned to Pennsylvania and became a right-hand man of John Mitchell. During the

great anthracite strike of a decade ago he was the secretary-treasurer of the National Union of Miners. He has celebrated his forty-ninth birthday anniversary this month.

In Charge of Railway Legislation.
The man who will marshal the Democratic forces of the House in legislation affecting the big railways is William C. Adamson, of Carrollton, Ga., the new chairman of Interstate and Foreign Commerce. He is a lawyer, fifty-six years old, and was city judge and city attorney of Carrollton before coming to Congress, thirteen years ago. He is an influential leader in the Methodist Protestant Church, having been a member of three of their general conferences as well as a delegate to the great Ecumenical Council of Methodism held in London ten years ago.

The man who will handle the big rivers and harbors bills of this Congress is Stephen M. Sparkman, of Tampa, Fla., new chairman of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors. He became a schoolmaster at eighteen, a lawyer at twenty-three, State's attorney at twenty-nine and Representative at forty-six.

Will Pilot Postal Laws.
Our new post-office problems, which strike home to every citizen—questions affecting the rural free delivery, the placing of the post-offices on a paying basis and so on will be thrashed over in the Democratic House under the marshaling of John A. Moon, of Chattanooga, Tenn. This new chairman of the Committee on Post-Offices and Post Roads is a native of Virginia, who went to Tennessee in youth, entered the law, became City Attorney of Chattanooga when twenty-six, Circuit Court judge when thirty-four and Representative when forty-two. He is now fifty-six.

The big bill carrying annually the millions needed for our army and navy will be guided through the Democratic House by James Hay of Virginia and Lemuel P. Padgett, of Tennessee, who now become chairman of the committee on military and naval affairs. Each of these new leaders is fifty-five years old, a college graduate, a lawyer and a former state legislator. Hay entered Congress in 1897 and Padgett four years later.

The chief guardian of the red men in the new House, John P. Stephens of Texas, chairman of Indian affairs, is another lawyer who served his apprenticeship for Congress in his state legislature, and John L. Burnett of Alabama, who, as chairman of immigration, will have charge of House legislation controlling the alien flood now washing in upon our shores, is still another lawyer who arrived in Washington by the statehouse route.

A Self-Made Man.
Burnett, however, had a very hard row to hoe when getting his start. His father having died when he was four, his mother had to teach school in order to support him until he was able to work. He became a farm laborer and went to school between crops. Like Chairman Wilson, he also toiled for a time in the mines. But, finally, he worked his way into Vanderbilt University, which turned him out a full-fledged lawyer. He has radical ideas concerning the restriction of immigration, and tells me that he favors an educational test for our immigrants, as well as requiring that all males above eighteen and females who come alone should be required to have more money in their possession, upon arrival here, than is now demanded.

If the democratic leader decide to investigate our relations with Mexico,

GENERAL ISAAC R. SHERWOOD.

or any other foreign country, such legislation will be in charge of William Sulzer of New York city, who now becomes chairman of foreign affairs. He was born in Elizabeth, N. J., was educated at Columbia College, New York, is a lawyer and Tammany brave. He became speaker of the New York state assembly when only thirty, came to Congress two years later and, although now only forty-eight, is the senior House democrat, in point of service, who hails from the territory north of Mason and Dixon's line. He possesses the strongest voice in Congress, is pugnacious in debate and has gained considerable fame as a humorist.

"Mr. Sedlitz Powder."
The republicans delight in twitting him on famed resemblance to Henry Clay, to which Uncle Joe Cannon once referred as follows, in the course of an allusion to Sulzer's vice-presidential ambition, in 1900:

"Here is the gentleman from New York who was created to look like the Great Commoner, Henry Clay. The Great Commoner from Kentucky, dead and gone, has been reincarnated. So we have my friend from New York as a foundation to go upon the ticket to

save the party, to save the country, to save the world."

"Look here, Mr. Sedlitz Powder," the effervescent Sulzer was once addressed by a republican punster, who went on to twit him about newspaper accounts of his resemblance to Clay.

And Sulzer at once gained the good humor of the House by replying: "Mr. Speaker, I cannot prevent the newspapers from comparing me with other great men."

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JOHN LAMB.

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Wednesday Club and the Music Study Club, of this city. The auditorium was decorated with dogwood, white lilacs, hyacinths and ferns. A most enjoyable program was rendered.

The Easter geranium was danced in the ballroom of the Burton Monday evening, dancing lasting until after 1 o'clock. It was the last German of the season, and was attended by a large number of the young people during the evening delicious punch was served.

Mrs. Howson W. Cole entertained a few friends informally at bridge at her home on Main Street Tuesday evening, as an especial compliment to Miss Glover, of St. Louis, Mo., who is the charming guest of Miss Annie C. Berkeley, on Holbrook Avenue. After the game delicious refreshments were served.

Miss Reida Overman, of Reidsville, N. C., and Miss Lady Harris were the week-end guests of Mrs. Rutherford Dule.

Mrs. A. A. Booth and Miss Mamie Fry were the guests of Mrs. George A. Lea, on West Main Street, this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Walker have returned from an extended wedding trip in the Middle West.

Mr. and Mrs. James T. Catlin, Jr., have returned after a delightful bridal trip North.

Miss Margaret Graham and her guest, Miss O'Neal, have returned to Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Featherston are spending the week in New Orleans and Mobile.

Miss Jean Page, who has been the guest of Miss Annie Page Fries on Holbrook Avenue, has returned to her home in Chatham.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Holderby, of Richmond, have been the guests of Rev. and Mrs. Horace Guerrant, West Main Street.

Miss Grace Jones has returned from the university and Old Point, where she attended the dances.

Miss Helen Wilson, of Lynchburg, was the guest of relatives here the past week.

Mrs. J. Cleveland Hall, who has been spending several weeks in Charleston, S. C., is expected home next week.

Miss Marie Connor has returned from New York, where she spent Easter.

Mrs. Forest Scales, of Holcombe Rock, was the guest of her mother, Mrs. E. M. Williamson, Holbrook Avenue, this week.

Mrs. John D. Spencer and daughter, Miss Annie Spencer, the latter, who has been undergoing treatment at the George Washington Hospital, in Washington, are expected home shortly. They visited relatives in Richmond on their return.

J. A. White, of Augusta, Ga., was in the city several days recently.

Louisa Social News
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Louisa, Va., April 29.—Miss Elizabeth Flanagan gave